

## **Summary of Changes in Proposed Report Card & Rated Licensing Rules Since Public Hearings**

Below is a summary of the changes to the proposed Report Card and Rated Licensing Rules that resulted from Department consideration of questions and comments received during the public rulemaking hearings. Note that this is only a summary of the changes made to the proposed rules since the public hearings; please refer to the actual proposed rules to see all the changes. **The final version of the rules, which reflects all the proposed changes, will become effective on January 4, 2009.** The new rules can be found at: [http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rules/rr\\_4.htm](http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rules/rr_4.htm). If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your Licensing Program Evaluator.

### **Changes that impact both child care centers and family & group child care homes:**

- The percentage of teaching staff required to have a professional development plan will only apply to teaching staff that have been employed by the agency for at least one hundred and twenty (120) days.
- The Early Learning component was changed to Developmental Learning and now includes sections for the Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards (for programs serving children zero to sixty months), and for School-age Developmental Learning Standards (for programs serving children older than sixty months).
  - Three (3) hours of training on the appropriate developmental learning standards will be required for the director and a percentage of all teaching staff who have been employed at least one hundred twenty (120) days.
  - After the initial training, three (3) hours of appropriate training to satisfy the requirements of the Developmental Learning component must be completed once every three (3) years.
  - Substitutes who have acted as caregivers for fewer than two hundred (200) hours in the previous calendar year shall be exempt from this requirement.
  - The following definition for School-age Developmental Learning Standards was added to the rules: “Standards which document the continuum of developmental milestones for school-age children based on the research about the processes, sequences, and long term consequences of learning and development.”
- In several instances the words “hold” or “holding” were changed to “offer” or “offering” in the Parent / Family Involvement components, when referring to required meetings.
- A handful of reference inaccuracies were corrected in the proposed rules.

### **Changes that impact family & group child care homes:**

- The requirement for family and group homes to have a parent involvement committee was eliminated from the Parent / Family Involvement component.
- Implementation of the bulletin board requirement was delayed until January 2010 for all star levels.

- Implementation of the one and two star level requirements to complete additional items from the three star level Parent / Family Involvement component was delayed until January 2010.
- The word “director” was changed to “administrator” in the Parent / Family Involvement Component.
- In the Parent / Family Involvement component, written communication will be required as follows: at the Two Star Level, “quarterly” was changed to “every two months” and at the Three Star Level, “quarterly” was changed to “monthly”.

**Additional General Comments:**

- The Department will provide training and support regarding the use of the Professional Development Form through TECTA, TOPSTAR, CCR&R and Licensing.
- Where appropriate, the Department will collaborate with TOPSTAR, TECTA, CCR&R and other partner organizations to develop standard forms for provider use if they so choose and to develop strategies for integrating necessary paperwork into provider workflow.
- The Department will be offering PSAM grants to providers who meet eligibility requirements, which includes participation in the Certificate Program.
- The Department will work with TECTA to explore online learning options for the Early Childhood Technical Certificate.
- The Department is open to exploring an option to have three star providers mentor zero and one star providers.